

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 16-19 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16, and 17 being amended, Claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 13, and 15 being canceled, and Claims 18 and 19 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 12, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohta et al. (U.S. patent no. 5,747,715). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The Examiner had indicated that Claims 3, 4, 10, 13, and 15 contained allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended Claims 9, 11, and 14 to incorporate the recitations of Claims 10, 13, and 15, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 9, 11, 12, and 14 are thus in condition for allowance.

With respect to independent Claims 1, 16, and 17, Applicant has amended these claims to include further details of the present invention. Specifically, Claims 1, 16, and 17 have been amended to further clarify that the respectively claims apparatus, method, and software are directed to reproduction of music sound and a voice sound that is representative of a human voice. More importantly, the claims have been amended to further clarify that the voice reproduction event data is a text description data containing information that are representative of words to be pronounced as a human voice, and prosodic symbols representing vocal expression to be applied for pronouncing the words in human voice.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ohta does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of applying prosodic symbols that represent vocal expressions in the pronunciation of words in human

voice. Rather, Ohta simply teaches an apparatus for processing song data containing melody data and lyric word data to synthesize singing voice, without the use of any prosodic symbols. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 16, and 17, as well as all of the dependent claims dependent thereupon, are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Ohta.

The Examiner rejected Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Rabowsky et al. (U.S. patent no. 5,680,512). This rejection is moot in view of Applicant's amendment of Claim 14 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 15.

New Claims 18 and 19 have been added. New Claims 18 incorporates the subject matter of allowed Claim 3, while new Claim 19 incorporates the subject matter of allowed Claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the presently pending claims in this application is in condition for allowance. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.393032042000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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